

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A ball chain, comprising:

a plurality of balls rotatably arranged in one row in a connector belt, the connector belt including a plurality of ball holding members interposed among the respective balls; and

a connecting portion, including through holes for containing the plurality of balls and for connecting contiguous ball holding members to each other, the ball holding members including ball receiving portions for embracing a spherical face of each of the plurality of balls.

10. (New) The ball chain according to claim 1, wherein the connecting portion is made from metal.

11. (New) The ball chain according to claim 10, wherein the connecting portion is made from stainless steel.

12. (New) The ball chain according to claim 1, wherein the ball receiving portions comprise spherical seats.

13. (New) The ball chain according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of balls is spaced at predetermined intervals.

14. (New) The ball chain according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of balls are embraced on opposite sides thereof by the spherical seats of the ball holding member, the opposite sides being perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the connecting portion.

15. (New) The ball chain according to claim 1, wherein the ball holding members are molded from a synthetic resin material.

16. (New) The ball chain according to claim 1, wherein the connecting portion is disposed on one side of the plurality of balls.

17. (New) A ball chain, comprising:

a plurality of balls rotatably arranged in one row in a connector belt, the connector belt including a plurality of ball holding members interposed among the respective balls; and

a connecting portion installed along one side of the plurality of balls and connecting contiguous ball holding members to each other, the ball holding members

including ball receiving portions for embracing a spherical face of each of the plurality of balls.

18. (New) The ball chain according to claim 17, wherein the connecting portion is made from metal.

19. (New) The ball chain according to claim 17, wherein the ball holding members are molded from a synthetic resin material.

20. (New) The ball chain according to claim 17, wherein the ball receiving portions comprise spherical seats.